



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

August 2008

Issue No. 449

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

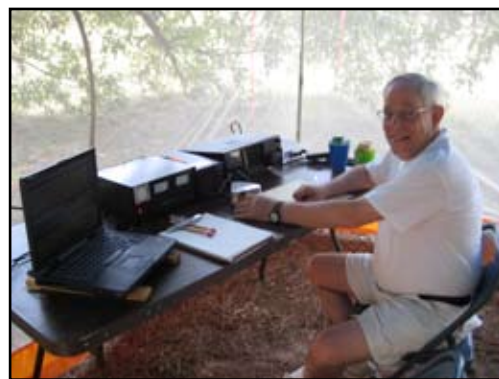
- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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Field Day 2008

We would like to thank everyone who participated in Field Day 2008. From setting things up and organizing the event to training new hams and making contacts, RARS had a wonderful time.



Clockwise from top left: Closeup of the 1933 Vintage CW station set up at Field Day by Bob Keys NA4G in memory of our own Tim Buehlmann W4TIM (photo by Chuck Littlewood K4HF). Charlie Swindell WB4DCM at the RARS Field Day 20CW Station (photo by Chuck Littlewood K4HF). RARS members Sandy and Dave Thomas (KC4SYV and K4SAN) check out the 1933 vintage ham station (photo by Chuck Littlewood K4HF). Bob Conder K4RLC provides guidance on the RARS Field Day rules (photo by David Crawford KF4VXJ).

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing

radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family mem-

bers pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (RARS.org).



The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

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KI4HOS
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Upcoming Amateur Radio Event

Announcement by Kevin Mulcahy VK2CE, ILLW Webmaster and Coordinator

This highly popular annual amateur radio event (not a contest) will be held over the weekend of 16-17 August 2008. There were 380 lights on the air from 48 countries last year. All you need to know about the event is contained on the official web site at <http://illw.net>. Originating in 1999, the event is organized and managed by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group in Scotland since the passing of the founder of the weekend, Mike Dalrymple, GM4SUC, in December 2005.

To register for the event go to the web site at <http://illw.net> and complete the online entry form so you can be listed on the entrants page. Any questions about the event can be sent to Kevin VK2CE, the ILLW Webmaster and Coordinator via the web site email facility.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to checkin. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.



June 2008 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 431	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 38/30	Checkins: 98
Minutes: 669	Minutes: 462
Sessions: 30	Sessions: 14

Upcoming Hamfests

August 2	Roanoke Valley Hamfest Vinton, VA http://w4ca.com/pages/hamfest.asp
August 3	58th Annual Berryville Hamfest Berryville, VA http://www.svarc.us/hamfest/
August 9	CFARS SwapFest Fayetteville, NC http://www.k4mn-cfars.org/
August 16-17	ARRL SE Division Convention Huntsville, AL http://www.hamfest.org/
August 23	ARRL Roanoke Division Convention Weston, WV http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/
August 30-31	Shelby Hamfest Dallas, NC http://shelbyhamfest.org/hamfest.htm

August RARS Meeting

The August program
will be Home Brewing
Power Supplies by
Johnny Mayfield
WA9SZL.

August Birthdays

Lem	KI4YXS	8/4
Mel	K4FEP	8/8
Clement	KD4BMA	8/8
Doug	N3VEJ	8/9
Andy	NI4S	8/10
Nola	KD4OLZ	8/12
Jim	WD8MZR	8/13
Mike	KI4WIY	8/15
Paul	AE4MN	8/15
Bernard	W4BRB	8/17
Randy	KI4BRZ	8/20
Al	KE4IHX	8/20
Red	AC4QX	8/21
Barry	KD4WTI	8/22
Steve	N4BTS	8/22
Steve	KJ4BX	8/23
Jack	KI4YXK	8/24
Hal	K4NKR	8/24
Jack	W5WSF	8/28
Edward	N4SSU	8/29
Charlie	W4VFJ	8/30

Welcome to RARS!

Doug Alexander	No License
Cathleen Bragg	KC5UNQ
Robbie Foust	KI4TTZ
Sonja Foust	KI4USZ
Jacob Jaskolka	KJ4AWR
Matt Wingfield	KJ4EVT

Article by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, RARS Public Information Officer

This year's GOTA station was pretty much a last-minute deal. I saw the W4EOT trailer at the Red Cross Hurricane Expo and thought that if it was available, it would make a convenient platform for the GOTA station that nobody else seemed eager to set up. So I sort of volunteered. FD Chairman Neil N4HAF got so excited that when the trailer fell through, I still had to do something. Well, GOTA is pretty important, and I've always enjoyed helping new hams (and hams-to-be), so I got a tent, table, and chairs, cranked up the Honda 1kW generator for a test, and dusted off the trusty Field Day dipole.

I sighed as I packed up my ICOM 756PROIII that I swore I'd never take to Field Day. But (1) it hasn't seen use in over a year (I've got to get some antennas up at the new house), and (2) Cliff AG4XR wanted to operate phone in the same band as GOTA – 75 meters – so we needed the best radio we could get to keep in-band interference to a minimum. The tent went up Friday with help from several club members who were hanging out to help everyone with setup. On Saturday I was only running a few hours behind schedule getting everything else out there. I just might make the 2 PM start time. There were a bunch of people waiting to operate GOTA, at least a little.

Once on site, I started out by helping a bunch of other people get their stations set up first ("Just 5 minutes," they said). As I turned to GOTA, someone came running across the field hollering for me. A News 14 reporter had arrived, and I needed to put my PIO hat on.

OK, now someone please explain to me why it was that, given this group of technically proficient and equipment laden hams, someone had to come running across the field hollering to get my attention. I mean really, what's up with that? I had my HT on, monitoring 147.42 simplex. I had it all to myself.

By the time I was finished with the reporter (did you see the two stories they ran all weekend?), and Congressman Etheridge, who came out at the invitation of David Crawford KF4VXJ, another bunch of hams had hung my antenna and set up my station! I'd give credit, but I didn't get everyone's name. But thanks! I tested the station – everything was working fine.

Left: Congressman Bob Etheridge operates the 20-meter phone station with Dennis Keith NC4DK. The congressman's visit earned us 100 points!



(Continued from page 5)

GOTA (Get On The Air) is for new hams, non-hams, and old hams who have been inactive. The only people who are officially disqualified are those who operated the station last year. And me. As the “coach,” I can’t operate or log. All I can do is tell you how to do it, and try to keep you from blowing up my radio. The station is good for contact points, and a slew of bonus points. It doesn’t add to the station total, and can operate on any and all FD bands, even if there’s another RARS station there. While the main stations used the W4DW call sign, we used W4RNC. The log shows we got on the air at about 6:45 PM. That would be after dinner (great BBQ and fried chicken). There were a handful of people standing by to make a contact or three, but it wasn’t easy. On Field Day, 75 meters is busy for the first hour, as everyone in “daytime” range – maybe 300 miles – works each other. Then most of them go somewhere else more productive until the band opens up as the sun goes down. It doesn’t start getting good until maybe 9 PM, and goes strong until sunrise. I had put out an e-mail on the RARS lists, and made some announcements on the 8 o’clock net, encouraging people to think late. No, later than that. But the first string of operators were not part of the all-night set, so we did the best we could, and everyone eeked out a contact or two from the few stations we found on the band.

The basic techniques of contest operating weren’t that hard to grasp. I had a cheat-sheet that showed what to say and when to say it. I take the minimalist approach to FD operating. Don’t say “please copy,” “we are,” or any of the other time-wasters. A quick “thanks, 73” at the end is courteous. Otherwise, it’s call sign, class and section, and move on.

Again, that’s not hard. What’s hard, it turns out, is tuning Single Sideband. As a teacher or coach, you have to be patient with the students. SSB is unlike anything a first-timer has encountered on radio before. As you tune across the band and begin tuning in a signal you hear either a high or low-pitched garble. Turning the dial until that signal bears some resemblance to human speech is a skill that takes practice. Most new operators tune *v e r y s l o w l y*. Encouraged to speed up, they zip past the sweet spot and fly on past the signal. And of course as they try to practice, just as they’re about to zero in on the signal, the ham they’re trying to tune in stops transmitting. And nobody else starts. That happened a lot! GOTA is not meant for high-speed contacts. It’s training ground. What I had to learn is that the training will go slowly.

I didn’t make a schedule or sign-up sheet, so I didn’t know what to expect as the hour grew later and the band got better. The first wave finished up, and all that was left was Bob Young KI4ZNM. Bob was licensed just last fall. He helped with the tent on Friday and the antenna and station on Saturday (and a bunch of other antennas and stations), and now he was ready to operate. Since everybody else split, he also got to do his own logging.

We operated mostly “Search and Pounce.” That’s where you tune up and down the band, looking for stations who are calling “CQ Field Day,” or, more often, stations in the middle of a con

tact who will be finished soon, so you can call them. Field Day contacts go by fast, or at least they can:

W4DW: CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day. Whisky 4 Delta Whisky, Field Day.

KN4AQ: Kilo November 4 Alpha Quebec.

W4DW: Kilo November 4 Alpha Quebec, 7 Alpha, North Carolina.

KN4AQ: Roger. I Delta, North Carolina.

W4DW: Roger, thanks and 73. Whisky 4 Delta Whisky, Field Day.

Lots of things can slow the contacts down. QRM and QRN (other stations, and atmospheric noise) are the two biggest factors. Both are in abundance on 75 meters at night. Weak signals can, too. I'm always surprised to have stations call me that I can barely hear, but they seem to be hearing me fine. They can't all be QRP (5 watts or less – we're running 100 watts). But even getting repeats can be efficient if you know how to ask for and give them.

Bob was getting the hang of it. He made a little over 30 contacts. We racked up bonus points for the first 20, and more because I was at the station full-time. It was closing midnight when he headed off to visit Cliff, who was also operating 75 meters.

Earlier, Cliff and I ran a test to see how close we could operate in the same band. Closer than 25 kHz, it turned out. I could see some artifacts of his signal, but 75 meters is so noisy, and signals are generally so strong, that those weak artifacts didn't cause a problem. He said he didn't hear any interference until he got within about 10 kHz of me. Still, I carved a 50 kHz slot around his operating frequency. There were plenty of targets to hit in the rest of the band. The "75" meter phone band is now 400 kHz wide for Extras, from 3600 to 4000 kHz. As Control Operator, my Extra Class privileges let us use it all. Turns out, though, that Field Day operation didn't start until a little above 3700. Not enough Extras out there, I guess.

Bob was to be the last GOTA operator for the weekend. I had intended to close up the station at sunrise and head home, with a full, early day at work slated for Monday. I'm getting a little old to pull all-nighters. But I left the generator running (it needed the exercise) and visited Chuck K4HF at 20 CW. I logged for a bit while Chuck racked up a few more contacts. Then I ambled over to Cliff's station.

Cliff and Bob were hauling them in pretty well. Free of the constraints of GOTA Coach, I sat down to log while Bob operated a bit more. Then he succumbed to the need for sleep, and I soloed for a few hours and worked about 200 stations. Cookin'!

Then the sun rose and the band set. 75 meters is seriously affected by the D Layer of the ionosphere. When the sun is up, the D Layer ionizes (and it don't need no stinkin' sunspots). But instead of reflecting signals the way the F Layer does, it absorbs them, especially the lower frequencies. 40 meters takes a hit. 60 is hit harder. 75/80 is hit bad (as is 160 meters).

(Continued from page 7)

I wandered back to the GOTA station. There was still a little gas in the generator, so I tuned across some of the other bands. Hmm – 15 meters is open early. We're in the "Sunspot Minimum," so 15 isn't too likely to open. The F Layer needs lots of sunspot energy to bounce 15 meter signals to the other side of the Earth, and that just doesn't happen at this point in the cycle. But Field Day is in the middle of E-skip season. Like the D Layer, the E Layer doesn't need sunspots to charge up. But unlike the D Layer, the E Layer is a bouncer. Not so much a layer as a "cloud" of ions, the E Layer's nickname is Sporadic E. You never know when or where it will form, or for how long, or how strong. It affects the bands from 15 meters through 6 meters pretty well. It can hit 2 meters now and then (more often than we thought a few years ago. I once worked a Milwaukee 145.13 repeater on the way home from a RARS meeting. The guys in Milwaukee thought I was coming in over IRLP). Distance is from a few hundred miles to a max of 1500 miles (the E Layer is lower than the F Layer). Double-hop distances are possible, but less likely because the E Layer is... sporadic.

Cliff had also set up a 15 meter beam. I found him at breakfast, and suggested we give 15 a try. He logged and I operated. I searched and pounced a bit, and we did pretty well, holding an effective hourly rate of over 40 contacts per hour. I said "we need to find a run frequency."

"Run" is the other way to operate Field Day. As the Run station, you call CQ, and the Search and Pouncers come to you. And boy did they! I felt like king of the band! Station after station called us, with few "dead" spots where I needed to call CQ, and several pile-ups of stations all trying to work us. We kept up a rate over 100 contacts per hour for several hours. The peak on the rate meter touched well over 200 for a while. That's almost four contacts a minute. That is smokin' (not using all those extra words helped). 15 held up until the end of Field Day at 2 PM. We had logged over 400 contacts on a supposedly useless band.

So much for wrapping up early. I had been up since 7 AM Saturday morning, and the only sleep I got was a brief cat-nap when Cliff noticed that I was failing to respond to a station that was answering the CQ I was bleating with Cliff's MFJ voice keyer. That's another tip for you new guys. If you're Running, and nobody's answering for a while, keep that CQ going. Only wait a few seconds for a reply, and hit it again. It only takes a few seconds for someone to tune across "your" frequency, and if you're not on the air, they'll miss you. Cliff nudged me, I woke up and made the contact.

I took down the GOTA station, headed home and fell asleep by 8 PM. I slept 10 hours – not enough, but wow, it was worth it. A great Field Day.

I plan to run the GOTA station again next year, with a lot more advance planning and publicity. We'll probably get 75 meters again (with a 15 meter option – Cliff said this was his swan song). So as you talk to new hams throughout this next year, ask them how late they can stay up.

Ham Radio Class

**Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA,
RARS Education Director**

A class to prepare folks for the Technician Class License will be held this summer, taught by an instructor from the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (RARS) and hosted by First Alliance Church in Raleigh! This 2-part class will prepare participants for the FCC exam. The exam will be administered at the end of the last class session. The class is open to the public.

Dates

Saturday, August 9: 8 am – 12:30 pm

Saturday, August 23: 8 am – 12:30 pm; Exam at 1:30 pm

Place

First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Instructor

Mike Murphy WA4BPJ, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Cost

\$25.00 for the class (fee includes manual)

\$14.00 FCC exam fee

All participation is by pre-registration. To register for this class, please contact Virginia Enzor NC4VA at nc4va@nc.rr.com by Wednesday, August 6.

Directions

From downtown Raleigh, head north on Capital Blvd. Turn right on Buffaloe Road and go 1.1 miles. The church is on the right.

****Please help us spread the word! We would love to see this class filled to capacity! Please note that a General License preparation class is tentatively planned for October 2008.**

Public Service Opportunities

**Information supplied by John Snellen AI4RT,
RARS Public Service Director**

Looking to get more involved in your community? Want to practice those radio skills? Satisfy both of these goals by volunteering at one of the upcoming public service events!

September 13 & 14: The 2008 MS Ride in New Bern, NC. To volunteer, email Bruce Arnold (brucen8uty@gmail.com) and copy Dick Orander (kd4isc@arrl.net) on the email. In subject line be sure to include "MS Ride." For more information about the event, check out the MS website at www.bikenct.nationalmssociety.org.

There are many more opportunities coming this fall, and we're always looking for hams to help out. More details and volunteer sign-up information can be found on links from the ham public service calendar at www.hampublicservice.org. Questions about public service events may be directed to the RARS Public Service Director at ai4rt@hotmail.com.

Date	Event	Location
August 23 @ 7am	Red Cross Generator Posse	Wake County ARC
September 13 @ 7am	Red Cross Generator Posse	Wake County ARC
September 13	Leukemia & Lymphoma Light the Night Walk	Downtown Raleigh
September 18	Leukemia & Lymphoma Light the Night Walk	Downtown Durham
September 27	ADA Step out for Diabetes Walk	RTP
October 18-19	Easter Seals Ride Without Limits	Wake Forest and beyond
November 2	City of Oaks Raleigh Marathon	Raleigh

President's Corner

**Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT,
RARS President**

It's hard to believe the summer season is in its last few weeks. Amateur radio is a year-round activity, and the events that make up our calendar are the reasons our club exists.

As stated in our mission statement, "the primary objectives of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society are education and public service." Through our involvement with public service events and emergencies, and by sponsoring licensing classes and demonstrations such as Field Day, the club is able to fulfill those objectives.

Another successful Field Day is in the log thanks to the efforts of Neal Fisher N4HAF and his many helpers.

The Firecracker Bicycle Event was successful with over 1000 riders and many hams helping with communications. The MS Bike Tour in September needs amateur radio's help as it prepares for over 1800 cyclists to participate.

There will be Technician License classes in August, so pass the word to those who may be interested. Information is available on the RARS website.

Once again, the Shelby Hamfest will be held on Labor Day weekend – August 30 and 31 – in a new location at the Gaston County Park in Dallas, NC. For more information, go to <http://www.shelbyhamfest.com/hamfest.htm>.

You can do your part by staying informed on what's happening in the local ham community and by volunteering/attending when you can. Information is available through the radio nets, in the *Exciter*, and on the various clubs' websites. As always, RARS and the communities around us appreciate your support.

June 17, 2008 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:08 PM. The following persons were present: Hank K4HM, Chuck K4HF, Selene KG4RMT, Greg KE4PAX, Steve KJ4BX, Ken KI4OTO, Gary KN4AQ, Rick KB4TKQ, Charlie WB4DCM, and one visitor Mike KB7NLA.

President Selene KG4RMT thanked everyone for being present at the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected. A corrected edition will be sent to the Board.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that we have 266 members. He has received letters from several entities to whom we submitted contributions. He has also paid expenses. The financial review has not been accomplished but is in the planning. The question was asked if we have a system for keeping our budget in line. Thereafter followed a brief discussion about the budget process. Greg KE4PAX announced that dues were running slower than anticipated. He then discussed several options for sending out dues notices. He also would like to send mailings to former members who have not renewed their membership in the last 2 or 3 years. Greg KE4PAX then raised the issue of updating the information on each member. There was discussion about the process of getting the information and what to do with it once received.

President Selene KG4RMT advised that she had sent a thank you note and receipt to Molly Gearn, sister of Tim Buehlmann W4TIM, for her contribution to RARS.

VP Rick KB4TKQ stated that the July Program would be PSK-31 by Justin KI4WAF. Donations for the refreshments for June were \$38. Rick advised that he has found it necessary to close the door to the refreshment room while he is trying to set up. It is very difficult to set up while people are seeking goodies.

Education Chair Virginia NC4VA was not present but had advised President Selene that a class for Technician and General Class licenses was in the works for after field day.

Survey Committee Ken KI4OTO has only received 12 replies to his questionnaire. This is insufficient to make valid decisions. Could we use a writeable PDF file or a standard form on our Web page? In addition, he indicated that he had overheard comments to the effect that the business portion of the meeting was too long. There was a brief discussion about what could be done to shorten the business portion of the meeting.

Old Business

The issue of a meeting place for October (auction) and December (Christmas Party) which require a larger space than we currently have at Forest Hills was discussed. Steve KJ4BX has reserved a room at the First Alliance Church on Buffalo Rd for our December meeting. Rick

KB4TKQ advised that the Commons Building in the Wake County Office Park off of Poole Rd might be available. Since RARS is involved with ARES, he thinks that the county may allow us to rent the space. There is plenty of room, a kitchen, etc for \$75 per night. He will begin the process of getting us authorized to use the facility. Page 13

Greg KE4PAX raised the issue of changing our Christmas Party format. Do we need something more associated with ham radio? There was extensive conversation about what the membership seems to like for the Christmas Party and what changes might increase attendance. The general discussion seemed to indicate to continue with the current format.

Mike KB7NLA stated that he has noticed that many hams do not seem to know how to properly hold their microphones. That is, they hold them too close or too far from their mouths. There was discussion about AGC systems and record/playback systems for the repeater all of which means more expense.

Public Service Chair John AI4RT sent an email giving his report. The Race for the Cure had 14 ham operator volunteers and used the 146.64 and 145.13 repeaters. The event coordinators were appreciative of the work done by the ham volunteers. The next event is the July 4th Firecracker 50 & 100K bicycle ride starting and ending in Cary. Volunteers for this event get a free lunch. Check the event on the Carolina Helping Hams calendar and RARS websites.

Hamfest Chair Hank K4HM reported that the workers party was held and that about 40 folks participated. No date has been set for the hamfest for next year. We are still negotiating with the NC Fairgrounds.

FM Repeater Chair Gary KN4AQ reported that the D-Star repeater has been moved to Durham. Our 444.525 repeater is still in the shop.

The issue of a brochure about RARS that could be given to new hams and distributed throughout the area was discussed. Hank K4HM advised that the project has not been completed.

The issue of a computer special interest group (SIG) was discussed. Without someone to take a specific interest and take charge in such a group, the discussion was tabled.

New Business: There was no new business.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX indicated that he had sent reimbursement checks to members for expenses and wanted to know if they had been received. He then raised the issue if committee chairs of standing committees were also members of the board. A check with our constitution indicated that they would be.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

July 1, 2008 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its general meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at Forest Hills Baptist Church. There were 49 members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT at 7:43 PM. President Selene introduced herself and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Four visitors were introduced, Susan Langley Jones WA4AKB, Matt Winfield KJ4EVT, Lisa Jenkins, and Gary O'Neil N3GO.

VP Rick KB4TKQ advised that it was a good field day!

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that on June 30, we had 268 members. However, since the membership renewal date is July 1, members that have not paid their dues need to do so. Year-to-date income has improved over this time last year. The education fund is being used in part to defray costs to minors taking the amateur radio classes and exams. Anyone interested in starting a computer special interest group needs to contact the Board for any needed funding.

President Selene advised of the RARS supper next Tuesday, July 8 and that all are welcome; that the Board will meet on the 15th; and all are welcome to the after meeting gathering tonight. The schedule of upcoming ham fests was reviewed along with the VE testing.

Public Service Chair John AI4RT reminded everyone of the Firecracker race on July 4 and that help was needed. There are no public service events scheduled for August. The MS ride in New Bern is September 13 and 14 and Dick KD4ISC will have more detail. Public service points are listed on the RARS web page.

Dick KD4ISC provided more detail about the MS bike ride in New Bern on September 13 and 14. There will be about 2000 riders doing 100-, 75- or 30-mile legs and it take lots of hams to keep track of all the riders. MS is very thankful for our contribution. Expenses incurred for this event are possibility tax deductible.

Field Day Chair Neal N4HAF stated that he is still gathering logs to prepare a report to ARRL. No final info available at this time.

President Selene then asked the members present several questions:

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- How many people are interested in fox hunting?
- How many people are on email?
- How many people are on the Yahoo List?
- How many people read the Exciter prior to the meeting?

Door prizes consisting of books were won by Clyde WB2EYC, Bob NCIX, and Bob KI4YXM.

VP Rick KB4TKQ then introduced Justin Pinnix KI4WAF who did a program on PSK-31.

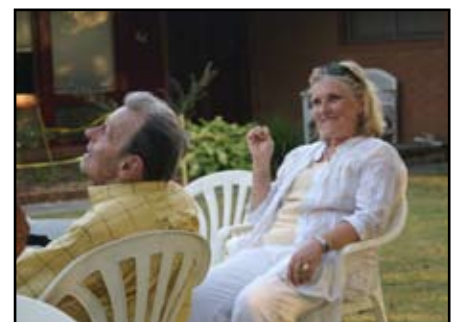
Justin went through a series of computer slides providing basic information about what is PSK and what radio, computer and interface is needed. Most of the software is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux and much of it is free. Justin discussed the aspects of getting started by setting up the radio, tuning the proper frequencies, adjusting the receiver levels, adjusting the computer output, and adjusting the mic gain. By the way, do not use the speech processor. Following the presentation, Justin then did a demonstration of PSK. The program was very interesting, stimulated lots of comments and questions and was well received by the group.

President Selene reminded everyone of the after meeting gathering. Next months program will be power supplies by WA9SZL. The Education Committee is working on a Tech/General Class.

Meeting adjourned 8:53 PM.

Check Out More of Field Day!

Photos by Bob Conder K4RLC, Alanna Conder K4AAC, and Lauren Conder KA4LHC.





The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.



CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss all areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.



The **Wake County ARES** net meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

August 12: Information net @ 9:15 pm. "The National Weather Association" with Ruth Aiken KI4ZCW, recently retired from the Raleigh NWS.

August 14: Basic SKYWARN Spotter Training. 7-9 pm @ Cary Fire Station #1, 1501 N. Harrison Avenue, Cary, NC. Open to the public.

August 20: SKYWARN Spotter Dinner. 6:30-8:30 pm @ Golden Corral Restaurant, 6129 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC. Program: "The 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season" with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

Same net – new name! The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter net is becoming the **Apex Emergency Response Communications net (Apex ERC)**. The name change is effective March 30, 2008. The net will still meet at 9 pm Sunday evenings on the 146.64 repeater (temporarily). All stations are invited to participate in this net. The organization provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

The RARS

~~Exciter~~

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

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Field Day: Always fun...



...and tiring!

Photos by Bob Conder K4RLC, Alanna Conder
K4AAC, and Lauren Conder KA4LHC.